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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,559	04/25/2001	Mark Rumer	05166P008	7598

8791 7590 07/01/2002

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EXAMINER

JUNG, MIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2663

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,559

Applicant(s)

RUMER, MARK

Examiner

Min Jung

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the first buffer and the second buffer, TDM frame, TDM stream, and Ethernet packet must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Specification fails to provide a clear teaching on the information, which indicates an appropriate time at which to write the data into an outbound TDM stream. In the specification, some examples of such information are listed to be (1) the destination of

Art Unit: 2663

the TDM data, or (2) information identifying which block of the TDM stream the data came from in order to reassemble the data correctly in an outgoing TDM stream, or (3) both the destination information and the identifying information. However, the specification does not provide teaching on how the timing is related or controlled by such information. The specification does not even show a format of Ethernet frame with the invention incorporated into it; the specifics such as number of bytes and the location of such information in the field is not shown. The specification fails to show structural correlation of the TDM frame and the Ethernet frame.

Specification further fails to provide a clear teaching on the writing of inbound TDM stream to a first buffer and writing of the inbound TDM stream to a second buffer while at least one TDM frame stored in the first buffer is written into the Ethernet packet. From the description provided in the specification page 3, [0009] and [0012], it is not understood how the buffering and writing is actually performed. The double buffer structure is not even illustrated. It is further not clear if the double buffering is referring to the two buffering steps 21 and 27 shown in Fig. 3, or if each of these steps has double buffering arrangement.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the claims, the terms "Ethernet packet" and "Ethernet frame" are used interchangeably. Clarification is required.

In claim 4, it is not clear what exactly is being done to the extracted TDM frame; it is not clear what the "second TDM stream is, and it is not clear where it is sent to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keenan et al., US 6,215,789 (Keenan).

Keenan discloses a scheme for transporting various data stream on an Ethernet LAN by packing the data into Ethernet packets. Keenan teaches that TDM stream is put into the Ethernet packet, and teaches that header information is attached. See col. 8, lines 55-58, col. 22, lines 48-57, and col.23, lines 22-25. It is inherent that the header information

Art Unit: 2663

contains destination information and source information. Since the claimed "information which indicates an appropriate time at which to write the data into an outbound TDM stream" is referring to the destination information and/or source information, according to the specification at page 2, [0008], the Keenan's teaching with the inherent feature reads on the claim limitation. Further, "the first field" reads on the payload field and "the second field" reads on the header field of the Ethernet packets shown in Figs. 5-8 of Keenan.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 3, 6, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keenan.

Keenan fails to specifically teach the first buffer and the second buffer. However, Keenan teaches TDM flow queues for handling CBR traffic before writing the TDM stream onto Ethernet packet. See col. 9, lines 3-6, and col. 12, lines 32-52. The queues are implemented with buffers. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the queues of Keenan by employing two buffers for handling the TDM flow before writing it into an Ethernet packet.

Art Unit: 2663

Conclusion


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Jeng, patent, 5,892,768, the Rowett et al. patent, 5,991,817, the Kothary patent, 6,249,528, and the Pickett patent, 6,208,658 are cited for further teachings on Ethernet equipments adapted for TDM traffic.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Min Jung whose telephone number is 703-305-4363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7AM-3PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

MJ
June 27, 2002


Min Jung
Primary Examiner